

The Division of Air and Water Quality of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources enforces minimum standards to prevent pollution. Any new industry locating in Jackson County must not pollute the air more than 60 micrograms per cubic meter of air. In addition, any industry dumping waste water must submit engineering studies as to its waste water disposal plans. Such plans are the basis of public hearings on the matter. This legislation is an asset to the Land Development Plan which proposes conservation of the natural assets of Jackson County.

Industrialization that can be compatible with other land uses is especially needed in Jackson County where the available land for all future use is so limited and where for economic reasons mixed uses must exist in corridors. This plan is designed with this in mind.

PUBLIC AND SEMI-PUBLIC LAND

A large percentage of the land of Jackson County is utilized for public and semi-public purposes. Included in this category is the Nantahala National Forest, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Cherokee Indian Reservation, Thorpe Reservoir, and Western Carolina University. For the most part these lands include most of the area of the Western section of the county. For planning purposes, it is "somewhat of a blessing" that these lands are so designated because their use is somewhat guaranteed and the county will have that much protection built into the Land Development Plan.

It is not anticipated that the quantity of these lands will be reduced or increased significantly during the planning period; however, other public and semi-public land will likely be increased. For example, there are several watersheds in the county with the potential for impoundment. Should such areas be designated for use either for electric power or water supplies, the county should protect the drainage basin feeding the area.